



2019 Policy Agenda

Hunger:

- **Maximize CalFresh benefits & streamline the application process** by allowing applicants to self-verify housing costs, key to the CalFresh expansion to SSI recipients – [AB 494](#) (Berman)
- **Create and sustain hunger-free schools** by increasing their capacity to provide universally free school breakfast and lunch with healthy, California fruits & vegetables– [SB 499](#) (McGuire)
- **Expand the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) statewide**, providing vital food access for CalFresh recipients who are homeless, elderly or living with a disability – [AB 612](#) (Weber) and [AB 942](#) (Weber)
- **Ensure low-income public preschool children receive nutritious, free meals**, and provide supplemental state funding for subsidized child care to serve nutritious meals – [AB 842](#) (Limón)
- **Protect CalFresh for unemployed and underemployed adults** by providing state-funded anti-hunger food assistance to people subject to the federal CalFresh time limit – [AB 1022](#) (Wicks)
- **Establish improvement goals and reforms for successful CalFresh enrollment** to ensure that all eligible Californians have efficient, equitable access to CalFresh by phone, online, and in person within an integrated safety net to support health and well-being – [SB 285](#) (Wiener)
- **Increase CalFood funding for food banks** by \$16.5 million on-going to provide a total of \$24.5 million to California food banks to better meet the need for emergency food – Budget request

Poverty:

- **Raise Supplemental Security Payment (SSP) grants** above the poverty level and immediately restore the state COLA – Budget request. Ensure that the end of SSI cash-out is a success by meeting the 75% enrollment target
- **CalEITC: End the exclusion of immigrant workers filing taxes with ITINs**, or work status provided through DACA or TPS – Budget request & companion bill in [AB 1593](#) (Reyes)
- **Stop discouraging low-income families from saving money** and punishing those who have by repealing the CalWORKs asset test – [SB 268](#) (Wiener)

The Time Has Come to End Poverty in SSI/SSP

California balanced the budget during the Great Recession on the backs of 1.2 million Californians who were aged, blind, or living with disabilities. SSI was cut by \$1 billion annually, plunging individual SSI recipients to just 90% of the federal poverty level.

Promises made to restore the grant levels once the economy recovered have not been met.

SSI/SSP grants are so low that they cover the cost of a 1-bedroom apartment and food in only 6 of California's 58 counties—and far less than that, in counties as diverse as Los Angeles and San Benito.

Data Hit

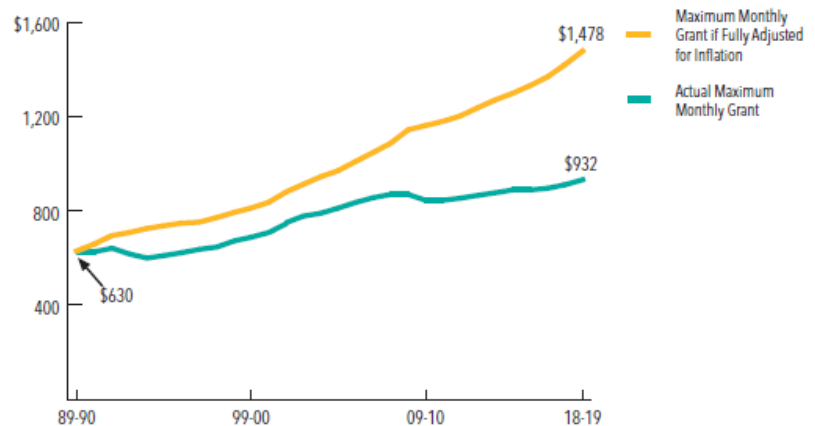


California Budget & Policy Center

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Largely Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Have Lost More Than One-Third of Their Purchasing Power Since 1989-90

Maximum Monthly Grant for Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have a Disability



Note: SSI/SSP stands for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment. Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Finance and Department of Social Services data



“I’m trying to schedule my meals so that I won’t go hungry and get my medication, and keep going at 85... It’s kind of a hard struggle as we are getting old, and I see it’s going to be harder for the next generations.” —Ortencia, Oakland, CA

For 27 years, CHAC has been California’s premier anti-hunger coalition: a broad-based membership organization that unites the foremost statewide and regional anti-hunger groups.

CHAC believes access to adequate, nutritious and safe food is a fundamental human right.

Hungeraction.net #HungerActionDay #HAD2019